

RAW-HIDE KID

FACES "the DEADLY DRAW
of MISTER LIGHTNING!"

OUR TENSE TALE
OPENS WITH THE
RAWHIDE KID
PURSUED BY
A THREE-MAN
POSSE AS HE
SIGHTS A
TRAVELLING
CARNIVAL
AT THE EDGE
OF TOWN...

LOOKS LIKE MY LUCKY DAY! I
OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO LOSE
THOSE JASPER'S FOLLOWIN'
ME IN THAT CROWD YONDER!

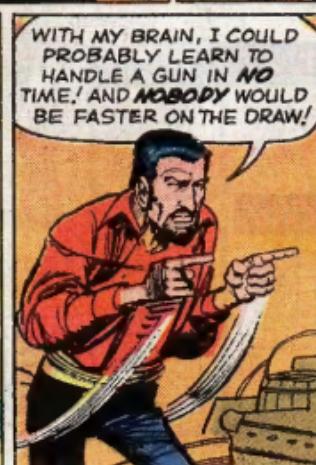
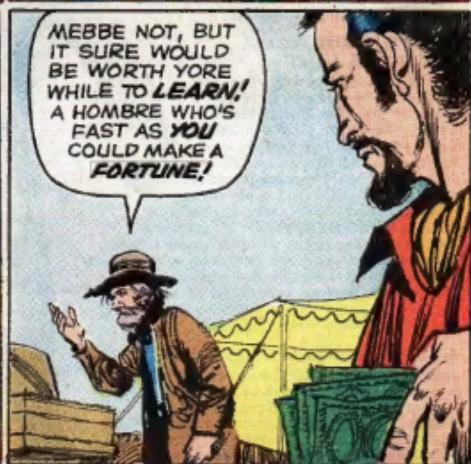
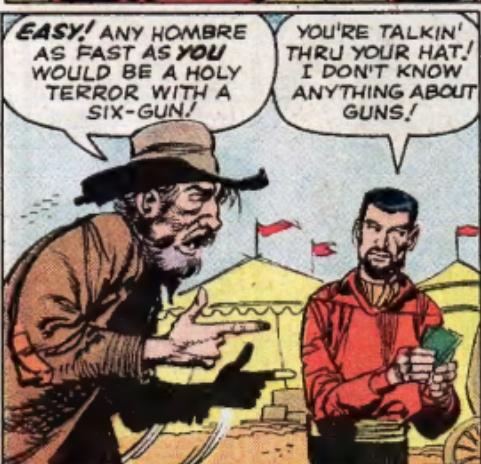
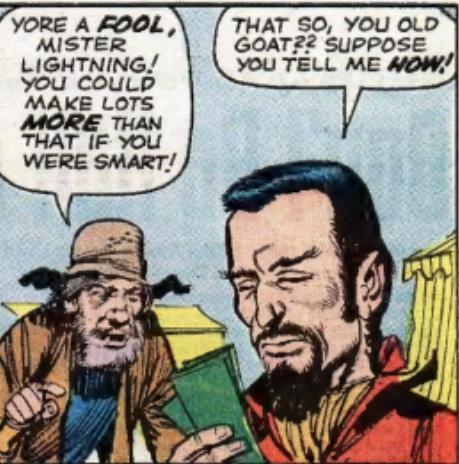
STORY:
STAN LEE
ART:
JACK DAVIS
LETTERING:
ART SIMEK



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LATER THAT DAY...



3
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, MISTER LIGHTNING SPENT EVERY WAKING MINUTE PRACTICING HIS DRAW!

THEN AT LAST, WHEN HE FELT HE WAS READY, HE BUCKLED ON HIS GUN-BELT AND WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!



AND SO IT BEGAN! MISTER LIGHTNING
WENT FROM TOWN TO TOWN, ADDING TO HIS
REP, FINDING EACH GUN DUEL EASIER THAN
THE LAST...



**HE HIRED HIMSELF OUT TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER, SOMETIMES MAKING MORE MONEY
FOR ONE GUN-FIGHT THAN HE COULD HAVE
MADE AT THE CIRCUS IN A MONTH!**



**BUT WHEREVER HE WENT, THERE WAS ONE
MAN'S NAME THAT STUCK IN HIS CRAW--THERE
WAS ONE VICTORY HE STILL HAD NOT WON!**

RECKON MR. LIGHTNIN'S THE FASTEST GUN
EVER, 'CEPTIN' FOR THE RAWHIDE KID!



**FINALLY, HE COULD LIVE WITH
THE NAGGING DOUBT NO
LONGER...**



**AND
SO...**

**THIS IS THE
PLACE!**

**NOW TO FIND
OUT ONCE AND
FOR ALL WHO'S
THE FASTER
MAN!**



**FINALLY, MISTER LIGHTNING FOUND HIS
MAN!**



I CLAIM I'M
THE FASTEST
GUN IN THE
WHOLE BLAMED
WEST!

BUT NOBODY'S EVER GONNA
BELIEVE IT UNTIL I OUT-
DRAW YOU!

SO I'M CALLIN'
ON YA TO
SLAP LEATHER!

MISTER, YOU'RE LOCO! WE
GOT NO CALL TO FIGHT! I
DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!



WELL, I'LL INTRODUCE
MYSELF! THEY CALL
ME MISTER
LIGHTNING!!

THE HOMBRE I
SAW IN THE
CARNIVAL MONTHS
AGO! HE'S TWICE
AS FAST AS ME!

I AINT CRAWLED YET,
MISTER--AND I AINT
STARTIN' NOW!



I DID IT! I OUT-
DREW YA BY A
COUNTRY MILE!
THIS MAKES ME
THE FASTEST GUN
OF ALL!

RECKON SO,
MISTER!



THE DRINKS
ARE ON US,
PARDNER!

ANY MAN WHO
CAN OUT-DRAW
THE KID IS
TOP DOG IN
THIS TOWN!

LUCKY FOR ME
HE WAS SO
ANXIOUS--OR IT
MIGHTA BEEN
MORE THAN
A SHOULDER
WOUND!

RECKON
YOU'LL BE
FAMOUS,
MISTER
LIGHTNIN'!!



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RECKON THIS IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME! NOW MEBBE FOLKS WILL LEAVE ME ALONE-- MEBBE EVEN FORGET ABOUT ME!

I'M MIGHTY TIRED OF FIGHTIN' AND RUNNIN' ALL THE TIME! A MAN CAN JUST TAKE SO MUCH!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE KID MEETS AN OLD FRIEND ON THE TRAIL...

SILENT BEAR! YOU OL' HOUN' DOG! COME HERE AND SET A WHILE! HAVE SOME JAVA!

HOW, KID! IT IS GOOD TO BEHOLD YOU! I HEARD OF YOUR GUNFIGHT WITH MISTER LIGHTNING!

I HAD FEARED FOR YOUR LIFE WHEN I HEARD HE OUT-DREW YOU!

AW, YOU SHOULD KNOW IT TAKES MORE THAN THAT TO KILL AN OLD RANNEY LIKE ME! WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENIN' AROUND THESE PARTS, AMIGO?

THEN YOU DO NOT KNOW?

MISTER LIGHTNING HAS BEEN TERRORIZING THE AREA! HE ROBS AND STRIKES AT WILL! NO ONE CAN STOP HIM! IT IS A BAD THING, MY BROTHER!

I SHOULDA GUESSED!

EVEN NOW HE HOLDS THE TOWN OF RED GAP IN A GRIP OF FEAR AS HE VICTIMIZES THE DEFENSELESS PEOPLE! AND ALWAYS HE LEAVES BEFORE THE LAW CAN CATCH HIM!

HMM, RED GAP'S ABOUT TWO HOURS RIDIN' FROM HERE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU SLY OL' FOX! YOU DIDN'T RUN INTO ME BY ACCIDENT--YOU CAME TO GET ME--TO SEND ME TO RED GAP! AND I'M GLAD YOU DID!

WISH ME LUCK, MY BROTHER!

MINUTES LATER...

'MISTER LIGHTNIN'!
THE RAWHIDE KID'S
IN TOWN! HE'S A' LOOKIN'
FOR YOU!'

THE
RAWHIDE
KID...

I BEAT 'IM ONCE,
AND I'M EVEN
FASTER NOW!
I RECKON HE MUST
BE TIRED OF
LIVIN'!

DRINK UP, BOYS!
I AINT GOIN' TO
BE AS EASY ON
HIM THIS TIME!



THIS TIME IT'S
GONNA BE THE
END OF THE
KID FOR SURE!

AND HE'LL BE DONE
IN BEFORE HE KNOWS
WHAT HAPPENED! HE
WON'T EVEN SEE MY
GUN MOVE!

WELL, WELL!
HERE HE COMES
NOW--A'WALKIN'
TO HIS DOOM!

I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR
YOU, HOMBRE! I'M GONNA
FINISH A JOB I
SHOULDA FINISHED
LONG AGO! YOUR KIND
AIN'T FIT TO RUN
AROUND LOOSE!



THOSE ARE BRAVE WORDS
FROM A HOMBRE WHO
AIN'T HALF AS FAST AS
I AM!

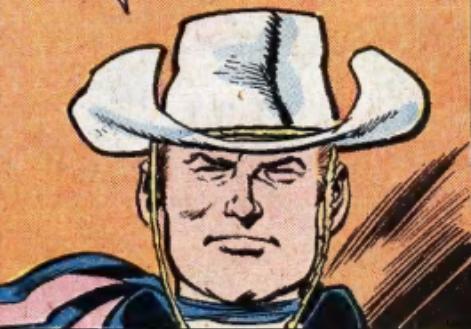
SPEED AINT
EVERYTHING,
HOMBRE!
YOU'RE
GINNA
FIND THAT
OUT!



ALL RIGHT, MISTER LIGHTNIN'--
I'M WAITIN'!! MAKE YOUR
PLAY!!

YUH FOOL!
I'M FASTER'N
YOU! YOU
KNOW I AM!

WHY ARE
YUH FACIN'
ME?? WHY
AIN'T YUH
AFRAID??



IF YOU'RE SO FAST, HOW COME
YOU'RE SHIVERIN' THAT WAY??
AIN'T GETTIN' NERVOUS, ARE YUH?

CAN'T BACK DOWN NOW!
GOTTA GO THRU WITH IT!
I'LL DRAW FASTER'N I
EVER DREW BEFORE!

I DON'T LIKE IT!
HE LOOKS TOO
SURE OF
HIMSELF!



THERE! FASTEST
DRAW I EVER MADE!
HE AINT EVEN
MOVED YET!

B-BUT I FIRED
TOO FAST!
I PLUMB
MISSED 'IM!



I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN
A DOZEN TIMES
BEFORE! A HOMBRE
GETS TOO FAST
FOR HIS OWN
GOOD!

YOU DEPEND
SO MUCH ON
YOUR SPEED,
YOU GET CARE-
LESS WITH
YOUR AIM!



AND THEN, AS MR. LIGHTNING GAZES HORRIFIED, TOO NERVOUS, TOO SHOCKED TO MAKE A MOVE, THE KID CALMLY, SMOOTHLY DRAWS HIS OWN AWESOME WEAPON...

I'M GONNA TRY SOME-
THIN' I NEVER DID BEFORE!!



THEN, IN A BLAZE OF BLINDING SPEED, THE BEARDED GUN-FIGHTER ALSO DRAWS, AT THAT SAME SPLIT-SECOND, AND...



I DID IT! I WORKED IT OUT SO BOTH OUR BULLETS COLLIDED IN MID-AIR!!!

BLAM



HORRIFIED BY HIS CLOSE BRUSH WITH DEATH, THE LIGHTNING-FAST GUNMAN SUDDENLY GOES TO PIECES!



I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP! I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE -- ANY THING! BUT DON'T SHOOT ME!

GET ON YOUR FEET! IT AINT SEEMLY FOR A MAN TO KNEEL AND BEG!



I'LL TAKE OVER NOW! MR. LIGHTNING'S FINISHED--FOR GOOD!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO USE A GUN, BUT THE KID'S IS BEST OF ALL--NOT IN ANGER, NOT FOR GAIN, JUST TO HELP THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE!



RAW-
HIDE
KID

"PRISONER OF THE APACHES!"



STORY: STAN LEE
ART: JACK DAVIS
LETTERING: ART SIMONE

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AHOY THE TRAIN! I'M HEADIN'
IN YOUR DIRECTION! MIND IF
I RIDE ALONG WITH YOU?

LOOK, EBENEZER!
A LONE RIDER! HE'S
BARELY OUT OF HIS
TEENS!

BAH! AS WAGON
BOSS I GOT A
RESPONSIBILITY
TO THIS TRAIN! I
CAN'T LET NO
STRANGERS JOIN
US--HE MAY BE
AN OWLHOOOT!

GO 'WAN,
BEAT IT!
WE DON'T
WANT NO
STRANGERS
HERE!

BUT,
EBENEZER--

QUIET,
WOMAN!
I'M IN
CHARGE
HERE!

MISTER, THERE'S
DANGEROUS COUNTRY
AHEAD OF YOU! YOU'LL
NEED EVERY GUN
YOU CAN GET!

I CAN HANDLE
ANY TROUBLE
MYSELF! NOW
GIT, STRANGER!

NOOFBEATS!
THERE'S A RIDER
YONDER! AN
INJUN!

PUT DOWN
THAT GUN!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
HE'S ALONE!

HE'S AN APACHE,
AIN'T HE? AND I
DON'T AIM TO TAKE
ANY CHANCES!

HOLD IT,
MISTER!
DON'T
SHOOT!

BUT THE KID'S CRY IS TOO LATE, AS--



DROPPING HIS WEAPON, THE WOUNDED APACHE TURNS AND GALLOPS FOR THE HILLS!



YOU FOOL! YOU FIRED ON A LONE INDIAN SCOUT! HE WASN'T AIMIN' TO HARM YOU!



MISTER, I HAD ENUFF OF YOUR LIP! NOW MAKE TRACKS OUTTA HERE AFORE I PUT A BULLET IN YOU, NEXT!



I'M BOSS OF THIS WAGON TRAIN, AND WHAT I SAY GOES! AND I SAY THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THEM APACHES AWAY IS WITH BULLETS!



I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, HOMBRE, BUT YOU GOT WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THOSE WAGONS...

AND I AIM TO TAKE CARE OF 'EM-- MY WAY! NOW MAKE TRACKS-- PRONTO!

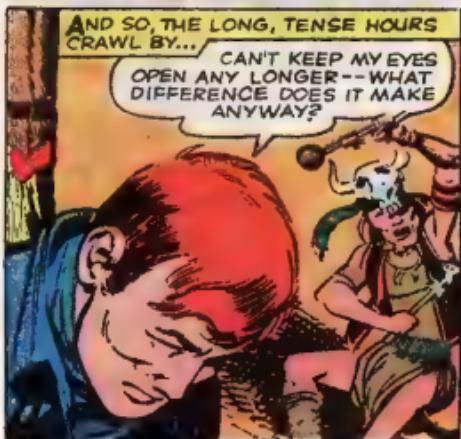
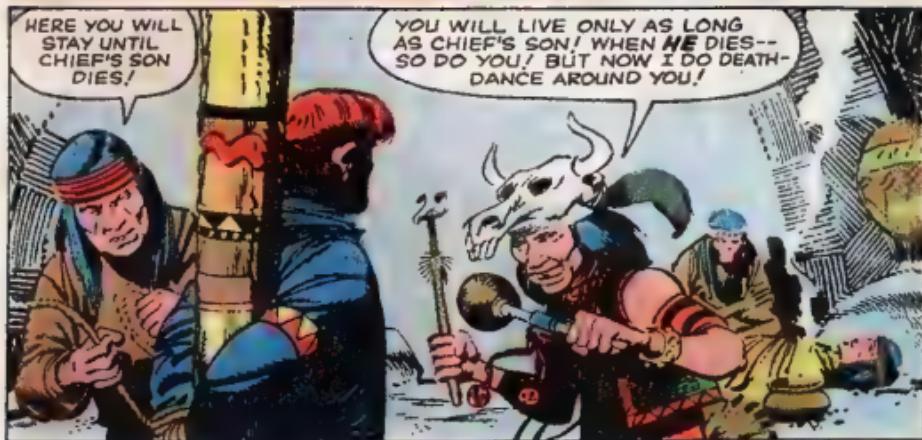
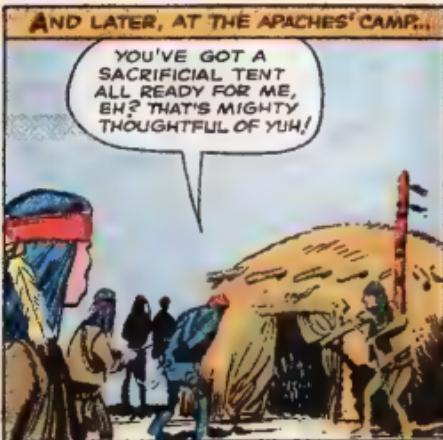
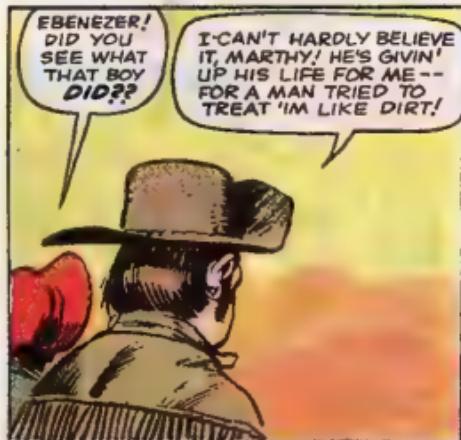


BUT AT THAT VERY MINUTE, NOT FAR AWAY... THE APACHE SIGNAL FOR AN ATTACK APPEARS IN THE SKY!











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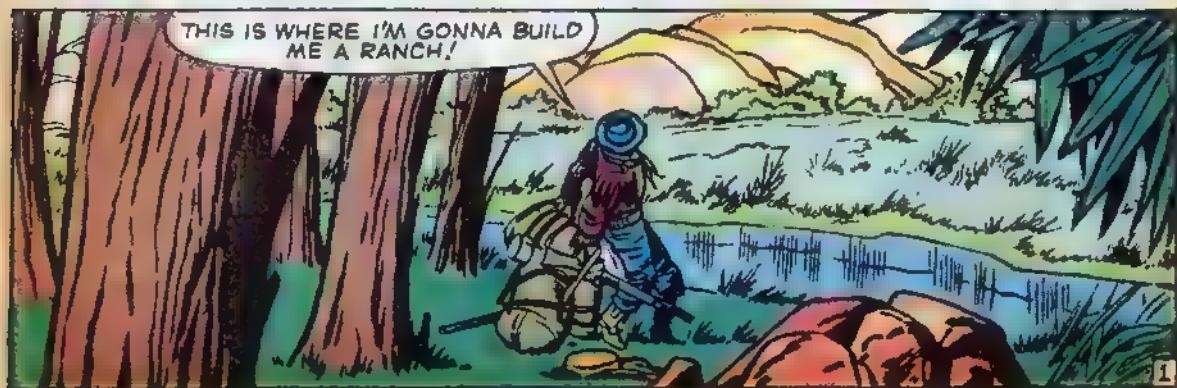


"MAN OF THE WEST!"

EDITOR'S
NOTE

OF ALL THE GREAT WESTERN "ADDED ATTRACTIONS"
IN OUR MAGAZINES, THIS IS THE ONE WHICH HAS BEEN
MOST PRAISED! AND SO, WE PRESENT IT AGAIN,*
WITH PARDONABLE PRIDE...

THIS IS THE STORY OF MARK MORGAN!
IT'S A TALE WITHOUT AN ENDING, BUT--
IT DOES HAVE A BEGINNING-- AND THIS
IS IT! IT BEGINS WITH A WEARY, MUSCLE-
SORE DRIFTER MAKING HIS WAY THRU
THE GILA COUNTRY IN NEVADA-- A
MAN NAMED MARK MORGAN!

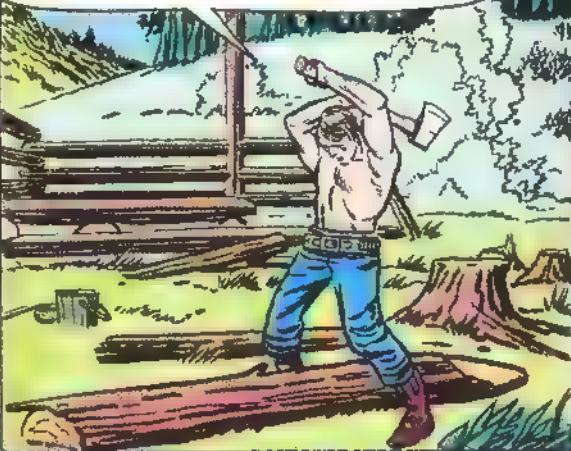


IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT! ONE LONE MAN IN THE WESTERN WILDERNESS! BUT HE WASN'T REALLY ALONE, FOR HE HAD THREE GOOD FRIENDS! A FRONTIERSMAN'S HEART, AND TWO GOOD ARMS!

WHEN I'M DONE BUILDING THIS CABIN, IT WON'T BE A PALACE, BUT IT'LL SURE BEAT SLEEPIN' ON THE TRAIL!

DAY FOLLOWED DAY WITH MONOTONOUS REGULARITY...

IT'S COMIN' MIGHTY HARD--BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO QUIT NOW!



FINALLY, THE JOB WAS DONE! MARK MORGAN HAD BUILT HIMSELF A HOME!

NOW TO PLANT ME SOME CROPS! CAN'T LIVE ON BERRIES ALL YEAR 'ROUND!

USING THE MOST PRIMITIVE, HOMEMADE TOOLS, MARK MORGAN BEGAN TO MOLD HIS LITTLE FARM, BY THE SWEAT OF HIS BROW AND THE VISION IN HIS HEART!

SHE'S COMIN' ALONG--
IT'S SLOW AND HARD, BUT I'M GETTIN'
THERE!



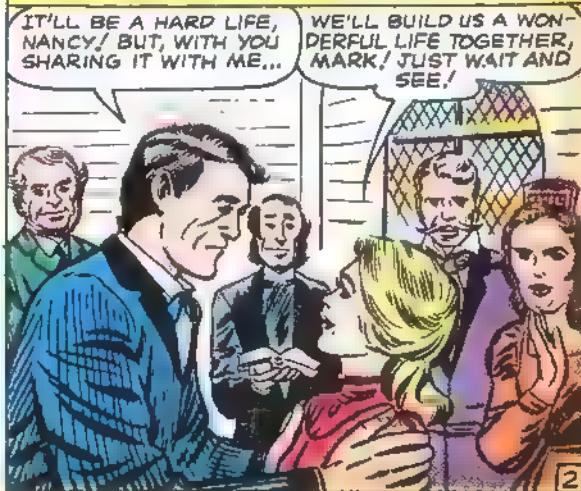
AND, WHEN HIS CROPS WERE PLANTED, THERE WAS STILL ONE MORE THING THAT NEEDED DOING...

I'M HOPIN' THAT LITTLE BLUE-EYED GAL I MET A WHILE BACK IN GILA FALLS IS STILL THERE--AND I'M HOPIN' SHE'S STILL UNMARRIED!

SHE WAS STILL LIVING THERE, AND SHE WAS STILL UNMARRIED--BUT NOT FOR LONG!

IT'LL BE A HARD LIFE,
NANCY! BUT, WITH YOU SHARING IT WITH ME...

WE'LL BUILD US A WONDERFUL LIFE TOGETHER,
MARK! JUST WAIT AND SEE!



EXACTLY THREE YEARS LATER, MARK MORGAN HAD AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE TO HIS WIFE AND TWIN SONS...

"LOOK! I MADE ENOUGH MONEY SELLIN' OUR CROPS TO BUY US SOME LIVESTOCK! NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE A REAL HONEST-TO-GOODNESS RANCH!"

"OH, MARK! IT'S WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!"

BUT THINGS DIDN'T ROLL ALONG SMOOTHLY FOR VERY LONG! AS THE GILA TERRITORY BEGAN TO GROW, THE RED MAN BECAME FEARFUL OF LOSING HIS HOMELAND... AND HE STRUCK OUT AT THE ISOLATED WHITE SETTLERS WITH SAVAGE FURY!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

FORTUNATELY, THE AMMO DIDN'T RUN OUT--NOT THAT TIME, NOR THE MANY OTHER TIMES THAT THE WARRIOR'S ATTEMPTED SURPRISE ATTACKS!

THEY'RE GIVING UP!
THEY'RE LEAVING!

OH, MARK--YOU'VE
BEATEN THEM!

BUT TRAGEDY CAN STRIKE IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS... SUCH AS FOUR YEARS LATER, AFTER A SUDDEN ILLNESS...

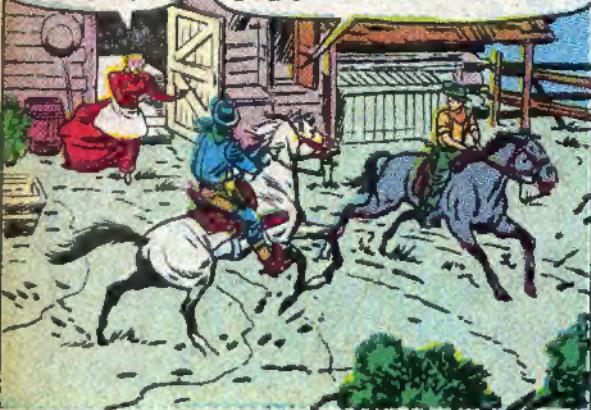
BE GOOD TO
OUR SON,
LORD!

YOU MUST BE BRAVE NOW,
TIM! YOU'RE THE ONLY YOUNG
ONE WE HAVE LEFT!

YES, MANY WERE THE MISFORTUNES WHICH BEFELL THE EARLY SETTLERS, AND MARK WAS NO LUCKIER THAN THE OTHERS...

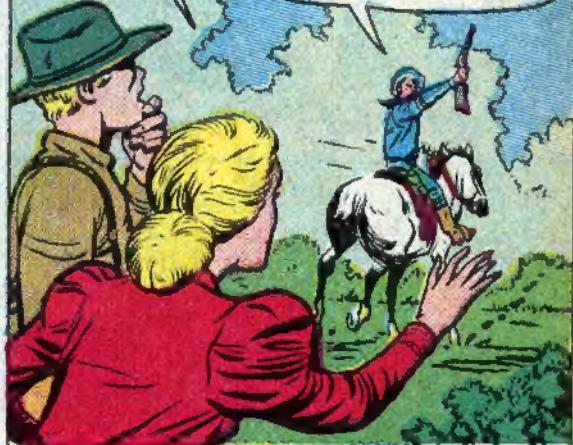
MARK! WHAT IS IT? I HEARD SHOTS!

RUSTLERS! GOT AWAY WITH A DOZEN OF OUR BEST HEAD! I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THEM!



NO! DON'T GO ALONE! TAKE TIM!

I DARE NOT! HE HAS TO STAY BEHIND, DARLING--TO LOOK AFTER YOU! I'LL BE BACK, NANCY! I'VE GOT TO COME BACK!

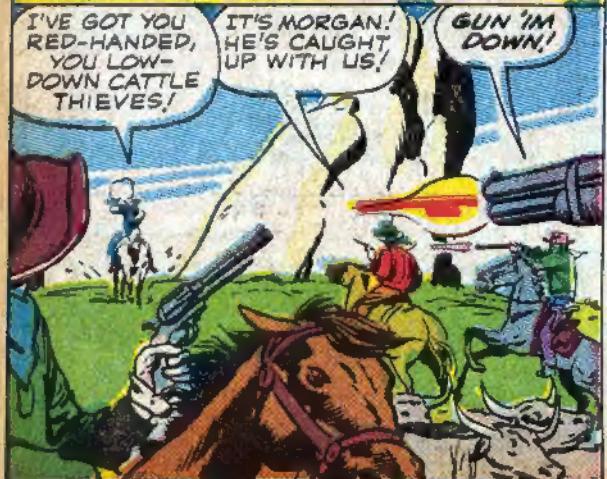


IT TOOK THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS UNTIL MARK MORGAN CAUGHT UP WITH THE RUSTLERS! AND THEN, WITH A SILENT PRAYER....

I'VE GOT YOU RED-HANDED,
YOU LOW-DOWN CATTLE THIEVES!

IT'S MORGAN!
HE'S CAUGHT UP WITH US!

GUN 'IM DOWN!



YES, MARK MORGAN RETURNED, AS HE SAID HE WOULD! HE HAD DEFEATED THE RUSTLERS AND RETRIEVED HIS CATTLE--BUT HE ALSO BROUGHT BACK A BULLET WHICH WOULD LEAVE HIS RIGHT ARM SEMI-PARALYZED!

OH, MARK-- I PROMISED
YOU'RE YUH, NANCY--
BACK!

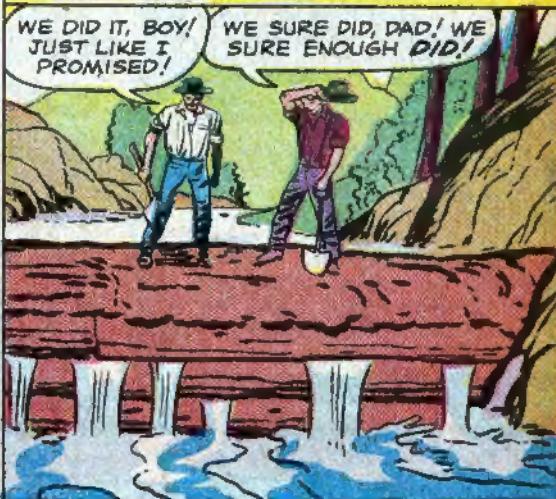
YOUR ARM!
YOU'VE BEEN HURT!



AND IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, MANY OF THE TROUBLES WHICH BEFELL MARK MORGAN WERE NOT MERELY MAN-MADE! THE VERY FORCES OF NATURE ITSELF CONSTANTLY CONSPIRED TO ALLOW ONLY THE STRONGEST TO SURVIVE!



**MARK MORGAN WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD! A
YEAR LATER, THE CHICKAWANNY RIVER WAS
DAMMED, AND THE FLOOD DANGER GONE FOR-
EVER FROM THE VALLEY!**



BUT THERE WAS YET ONE MORE DANGER FOR MARK MORGAN TO FACE! AND IT WAS TO PROVE TO BE THE ONE THREAT THAT HE COULD NOT DEFEAT!



**BUT EVERYTHING IS FINE
NOW! WE HAVE A PROS-
PEROUS RANCH--LAW
AND ORDER HAS COME
TO GILA COUNTY--AND
WE CAN FINALLY TAKE
THINGS A LITTLE
EASIER!**

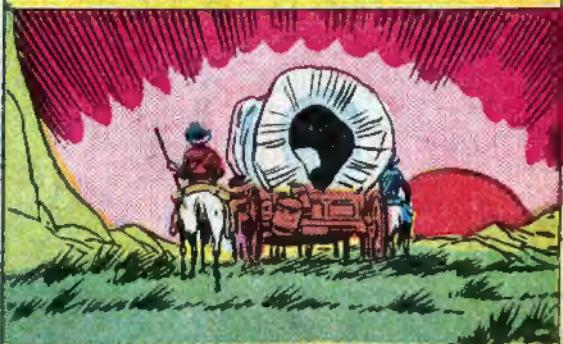


THAT'S JUST IT!
DON'T YOU UNDER-
STAND WOMAN??
CAN'T YOU SEE?

I'M A FRONTIERSMAN--A PIONEER! I GOTTA
BE MAKIN' SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING--
TURNING A WILDERNESS INTO A PLACE TO
RAISE A FAMILY! BUT--WHEN IT'S FINISHED--
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT! I CRAVE TO BE
MOVIN' ON--TO FIND ME A NEW WILDERNESS!



AND SO OUR STORY ENDS AS IT BEGAN--WITH MARK MORGAN WEARY AND MUSCLE-SORE, MAKING HIS WAY THRU WILD, UNTAMED WILDERNESS, SEEKING A HOME SITE JUST OVER THE HORIZON!



--BUT THIS TIME THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!
THIS TIME HE HAS A WIFE, AND A SON--AND OF
SUCH STURDY HUMAN THREAD WAS WOVEN THE
FABRIC OF THE GLORY OF THE WEST! *the*

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS ON THE NEXT PAGE!

the
END

RAWHIDE KID

SEE THE KID
BEATEN BY
"MISTER
LIGHTNING!"

HE'S
EVEN
FASTER
THAN
THE
RAWHIDE
KID!

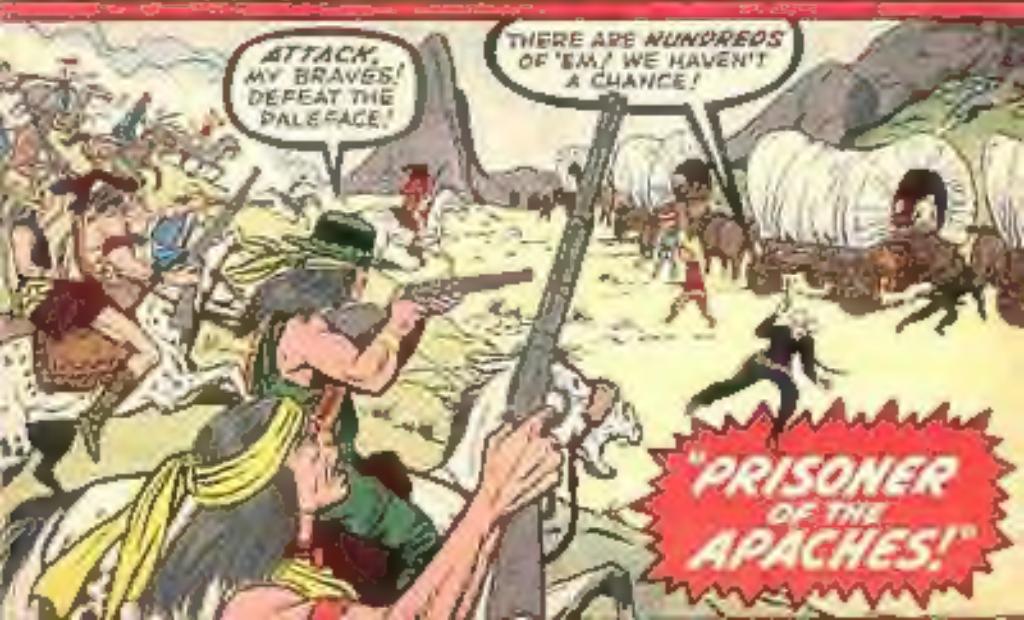
HAW! NOBODY
CAN OUTDRAW
MISTER
LIGHTNING!



ATTACK,
MY BRAVES!
DEFEAT THE
PALE FACE!

THERE ARE HUNDREDS
OF 'EM! WE HAVEN'T
A CHANCE!

"PRISONER
OF THE
APACHES!"



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